

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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COPENHAGEN 1921

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TAGS: ELAB, EEC, ICFTU, XT, EFTA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), WHICH TOOK PLACE
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MARCH 9, WAS CHARACTERIZED AS A "WORKING SESSION" DURING WHICH MOST OF THE POLITICALLY VOLATILE ISSUES WERE ABSENT FROM THE FORMAL AGENDA. END SUMMARY.

2. KAARE SANDEGREN, ETUC DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY, TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE ETC LAST MONTH DEALT PRIMARILY WITH ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS. THE MEETING WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF, LASTING ABOUT FOUR HOURS, AND MOST SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DEALT WITH ONLY LIGHTLY.

3. HOWEVER, THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM THE ETUC AFFILIATES IN EC MEMBER COUNTRIES AGREED TO INFORM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES THAT THEY OPPOSED THE INCLUSION OF TWO NON-ETUC AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS, THE GERMAN CAG AND THE FRENCH CSC, IN THE EC SOCIAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE NEXT MAY. (SANDEGREN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH TUC DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE, JACK JONES MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD HAVE VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED TO THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT THE TUC'S POSITION ON THE COMMUNITY PRECLUDED HIS CASTING A VOTE.)

4. THE COMMITTEE ELECTED TWO ADDITIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS, INSTEAD OF ONE AS ANTICIPATED (REFTEL: STORTI (ITALIAN CISL) AND STREUER (AUSTRIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS). A JOINT COMMITTEE OF OFFICIALS FROM THE FORMER ETUC COMPONENTS (EFTA-TUC AND ECFTU) WAS APPOINTED TO DISCUSS SALARY AND PERSONNEL QUESTIONS, WITH A VIEW TO ULTIMATE RATIONALIZATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE ETUC SECRETARIAT.

5. THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED ITS RELATIONS WITH EFTA AND WITH THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. THE ETUC SEEKS TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH EFTA ENJOYED BY THE EFTA-TUC IN THE PAST, BUT IS INTENT ON BREAKING DOWN WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE EFTA'S "SECRECY" IN CONTRAST TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S GREATER "OPENNESS". THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO ENDORSED A REPORT WHICH CRITICIZED THE EC'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. THE REPORT SAID THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

COMMITTEE HELD TOO MANY MEETINGS, THUS PREVENTING MEN OF "POLITICAL IMPORTANCE" FROM PARTICIPATING, AND CALLED FOR A RATIONALIZATION OF ITS STRUCTURE.

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6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO ESTABLISHED WORKING COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: MONETARY POLICY, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. AN ADDITIONAL WORKING PARTY WAS INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE AN ETUC ACTION PROGRAM BY DECEMBER 15, THE SECRETARIAT WAS ASKED TO PREPARE A REPORT ON A SYSTEM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BY ETUC AFFILIATES ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

7. THE NEXT TWO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 4 (BRUSSELS) AND JUNE 22 (POSSIBLY IN ROME).

8. COMMENT: THIS MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS ESSENTIALLY A LIMITED " NUTS AND BOLTS" SESSION. SANDEGREN NOW BELIEVES THAT THE ETUC WILL SOON HAVE TO BEGIN DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SHRISTIAN TRADE UNION AFFILIATION (THE MAY4 MEETING WILL PROVIDE THE FIRST FORMAL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE), (ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND WILL ATTEND FUTURE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.)

DECONTROL AFTER MARCH 12, 1974.

GREENWALD

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